

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 NEA-10 SAB-01

DRC-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 /177 W

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R 270631Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6326

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 0841

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIA AND OPEC

1. SUMMARY. PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY KARIM MARZUKI, MFA, CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MINISTER OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES TAIB MAHMUD'S RECENT TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST WAS TO PROMOTE GOM MEMBERSHIP IN OPEC. END SUMMARY.

2. KARIM, WHO ACCOMPANIED TAIB, SAID THAT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IS BEING SOUGHT, AS APPROPRIATE TO MALAYSIA'S POSITION OF CONSUMER-PRODUCER. HE SAID THAT SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES IN SIMILAR POSITION HAD ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. ACCORDING TO KARIM, GOM WOULD HAVE ALL RIGHTS OF FULL MEMBERSHIP, EXCEPT RIGHT OF VETO.

3. KARIM SAID THAT TAIB HAD FAVORABLE RECEPTION AND GOM NOW HAS SUPPORT OF SIX OPEC MEMBERS. HE WILL MAKE A SECOND TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST SOON TO SOLICIT FURTHER
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SUPPORT FROM "NORTHERN ARABS," PRESUMABLY IN AFRICA.

CURRENT VIEW OF TAIB AND MFA, ACCORDING TO KARIM, IS
THAT GOM WILL GET NECESSARY SUPPORT AND WILL JOIN OPEC SHORTLY.

4. COMMENT. OUR EARLIER INQUIRIES TO GOM ON OPEC MEMBERSHIP
HAD BEEN DENIED AS PREMATURE. ACCORDING TO KARIM
MEMBERSHIP IS SOUGHT IN ORDER TO GAIN BETTER
INSIGHT INTO ENTIRE RANGE OF PETROLEUM ISSUES, AND TO
FACILITATE OBTAINING TECHNICAL INFORMATION FROM
OTHER PRODUCERS. MEMBERSHIP WILL ALSO SERVE TO DIMINISH
GOM'S RELIANCE ON PERTAMINA, WHICH HAS BEEN ONLY REGULAR
CONTACT ON PETROLEUM ISSUES IN THE PAST. EMBASSY ALSO
NOTES THAT OPEC MEMBERSHIP WILL MORE FIRMLY ALIGN GOM
WITH PRODUCER NATIONS, ESPECIALLY ARABS IN MIDDLE EAST.
UNDERHILL

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